

NINETY DAYS OF CONGRESS.

SLIM PROSPECT FOR GENERAL LEGIS-

A DEMORALIZED MAJORITY-DEMOCRATS WILL
ATTACK THE ADMINISTRATION-DIFFICULT

COMMISSION SCHEME OF LEGIS-
LATION AND GOVERNMENT-
MEASURES THAT MUST
BE POSTPONED.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Washington, Dec. 2.—The session of Congress

be a fruitful one so far as legislation is concerned, and the best that can be hoped for, probably, is that as the session will be a brief one, the number of blunders will be smaller and the injury to the business and industrial interests of the country less serious than at the first and second sessions, which were virtually one. Under less Representative, irrespective of party, will

have arrived in Washington are wholly mistaken. In the opinions they have expressed, little will be attempted and less accomplished beyond the passage of the regular appropriation bills. There promises to be an avalanche of talk-discussion, so-called, and an interesting exhibition of Democratic dirty linen, accompanied by much bitter crimination and recrimination. The devastation

Democratic candidates, among free silver and sound money candidates, among radical tariff reformers and "moderate" candidates, among the advocates of the income tax and candidates opposed to the income tax—in short, among all sorts of Democrats and Demo-Populists—was a universal and complete on November 6 that the candidates for such an exhibition are among

abundant, and the temptation to use them will be stronger than many Democrats will be able to resist and overcome. It is barely possible, also, that some wicked Republicans, remembering their repeated taunts in which Crisp, Catchings, Bynum, Springer, Outhwaite, Willson, Warner and many other Democrats have indulged at the expense of the Republicans in the last three

It is noticeable that neither Speaker Crisp nor Mr. Catchings, both of whom are members of the Democratic triumvirate that rules the House,

Representatives, appears to expect much, if anything, in the way of legislation from that body. They both think, however, that the Senate may pass the Anti-Option bill and the Bankruptcy bill, which passed the House last session, and that favorable action may be had on the bills for the admission of Arizona and New Mexico, which have also passed the House.

Territories. As to the prospect of financial legislation, Democratic leaders who are on the ground decline as a rule to express any opinion in advance of the publication of the President's message, but it is generally admitted by them that the discussion of financial topics will consume a great deal of time, and probably provoke considerable irritation as well as harsh

It is probable that the report of the House Committee on the Judiciary on the question of the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to sell bonds under the resumption act and apply the proceeds in payment of current, ordinary expenses of the Government, will be considered

such authority will be passed by the House of Representatives by a very large majority. There do not appear to be many men on either side who admit that the Secretary of the Treasury

proceeds of bond sales to pay current expenses but at the same time there are a great many who declare that he had no alternative, and that however unlawful his action may have been, it was necessary in order to preserve and maintain the public credit; and, moreover, that it was forced upon him by Congress, which enacted

monthly deficit, and that does not yield a dollar to aid in maintaining the gold reserve; and that Congress has also refused to provide any other means of maintaining the public credit and meeting payments due under appropriation laws than those provided by the Resumption act. It is quite probable that some Democrats will resort that for the latter condition President Cleve-

mainly, if not solely, responsible. In this relation a statement made to a Tribune correspondent yesterday by a Democratic Congressman who is a thick-and-thin supporter of the Admin-

Cleveland, is interesting and rather important. He had been defending Secretary Carlisle's action on the ground of its necessity, when the correspondent suggested that the Administration and the Treasury might be in better trim to-day if the Senate amendment to the Sunday Civil bill of the second session of the LIId Con-

Yes, that is undoubtedly true. That amendment would have passed the House, too, if President-elect Cleveland and Senator Carlisle had

performed an organization in the House, with the assistance of Speaker Crisp, that was strong enough to carry the amendment. The tie that bound the organization together, so far as the Democrats were concerned, was the supposed hearty approval and encouragement of Mr. Cleveland and of Senator Carlisle, the coming Secretary of the Treasury, who was with him at Lakewood. Before he left Washington for Lakewood, Mr. Carlisle expressed himself strongly in favor

Senator Shrirman (I think after consultation with Mr. Carlisle), on the ground that the Secretary of the Treasury would be powerless, in case of a failure of current receipts, to pay expenses, unless Congress should clothe him with the authority

train in the Hodge, and were ready to move. Colonel Breckinridge, of Kentucky, on the morning of that day, showed me a telegraphic dispatch from Senator Carlisle, dated at Lakewood in which he said, in effect, that it would be better not to make an effort to pass the amendment if it would be likely to encounter strong opposition, and that, in his opinion, an issue of bonds to provide money to pay current expenses would not become necessary. Of course, the

Everybody who closely observed what took place in and around the House of Representatives during the last few weeks of the existence

ly and severely Senator Carlisle was criticized by Speaker Crisp and other leading Democrats in the House of Representatives who were anxious to do everything in their power to smooth the way for the incoming Democratic Administration on account of his constant wavering. One of the most prominent and influential of those leaders said to the writer one morning near the expiration of his term of office:

I do wish we could find out what Carlisle really wants us to do. He will talk one way to Senators at the other end of the Capitol and the other right over here and talk in an entirely different and contrary way. I cannot, for the life of me, make up my mind whether he wants the Senate amendment adopted or not, although he favored it in the Senate, and I sometimes think he doesn't know his own mind.

ocrat who was present. "The late Senator B-